

An;  
Inaugural Dissertation,  
On,

Homoeopathy.  
Presented To The faculty of  
Homoeopathic College.  
For The.

Degree of Doctor of Medicine,  
By M. A. Cleckley, of  
Enon. Ala.

Philadelphia. January 1<sup>st</sup> 1850

## Homoeopathy:

1

### After the lapse

of ages of patient, & long endurance we are blessed with the philosophy of Medicine, for indeed it is so deeply imbued with the coloring of Truth, that all who have eyes & wish to see can investigate with certainty its true nature. The most important of all, amidst the many improvements which has of late years been introduced into almost every branch of human knowledge, is this law of cure. Medical Science no longer shut up in the Monastery, has risen from her lethargy of centuries & is gone abroad on the mighty wing of her own energy, conquering & to conquer. Truth is awake but as in unsealing. The vision of human

shature, & freeing its limbs from the  
shackles of error, which has precipi-  
tated so many of our fellow-beings with  
untold tortures.

Look abroad where Science  
struggling with the shades of night, breaks  
like the Brealis through the gloom, start-  
ling the firmament. This is a heavenly  
sign, that virtue is reviving among men.  
While the celestial marriage of goodness  
with its truth, so long lost, shall  
be restored. Homoeopathy is based  
upon this ever true aphorism, —

Similia Similibus Curaantur. —

Who revealed to us this long busi-  
ed & scientific law of cure? I ans-  
wer the immortal Hahnemann,  
of whom well may the electorate  
of Saxony boast of having produced  
so great a worth & benefactor of

Mankind. Hahnemann after having completed his orthodox curriculum, with some years of thoughtful & intelligent experience, he takes rather a desponding view of medical practice, he with diligent attention, learned the delusive nature of the ordinary methods of treatments. He says it was painful to me to grope in the dark, guided by our books in the treatment of disease - to prescribe according to this or that hypothetical view of the nature of disease, substances that owe to mere opinion their place in the materia medica. He had conscientious scruples in treating unknown morbid states by medicines, of its pathogenic effect - he knew nothing. He could not be blinded by the wavering

to prophetless speculations of empiricism. 4

Thus by this mighty conviction -  
With much anxiety & solicitude, he  
revealed to man, The greatest boon  
of Heaven; The compass to steer  
The tempest-tost bark of life  
To its wished for shore. That  
Medicines have the power of cur-  
ing diseases, similar to those they  
produce in the healthy. He does  
not deny that before this sur-  
prising problem was properly solved,  
that Medicine was utterly ineffectual  
of permanent good, on the contrary, he  
admits again & again to cures in the  
highest degree remarkable as having  
been performed in every age. But he  
conceded the want of a fundamen-  
tal law, by which remedies proving  
serviceable at one time, could be made

made available in a like crisis, or in other words not to trifly with life by accidental Homoeopathy. Such cases spakled here & there in every medical treatise. But accident which occasionally proved a happy expedient is a miserable substitute, a vortex of destruction, a conifer of human woes. Most of the vaunted trophies of Anti Pathy were made without the smallest assistance from any science under the sun, but the result of mere accident, which led to the detection of a remedy, as has been the usual way in which remedies acting Homoeopathies have gotten into common use. It was then left for Samuel Hahnemann the ripe scholar profound Philosopher & great discoverer. A man characterised by powers

6

of mind of unparalleled investigation,  
to furnish the key by which the  
secret spring of our *Materia Medica*  
was taken & sprung from its  
socket, revealing the law of sci-  
entific Medicine, founded upon the  
law of Nature. It will ever stand  
in the scientific world a monume-  
nt to his genious, & to which com-  
ing ages will add volumes of useful-  
ness. It was headed by this golden  
chain. *Similia Similibus Curan-*  
*Tur.* A law by which we may be contin-  
ued to devote ourselves, as the Astron-  
omers & Chemists, to pure observation  
& experiment. If we are ever mindful  
of this aphorism, we shall be in-  
finitely elevated above the hobby of  
Medical Science in all ages of wild &  
prophetless speculation, or hypothesis.

7

which has been the shoals & quicksands  
of the past history of Medicine.

Since the rise of this universal  
law has been cleared away, what a vast  
& comprehensive field, is offered to every  
course of truth & usefulness, in bring-  
ing to light the medicinal virtue of  
the those not yet entirely explored  
Kingdoms of Nature, for while strol-  
ling in fields & forests, some one of us  
may be struck by the beauty & luxury  
or the other insignificance of some wild  
blossoms, proving to be the similia  
for Phthisis Pulmonalis, or some other  
now incurable disease. And thus  
add a rock in solidifying the base  
of the Temple of Homoeopathy.

Thus will & must rock be add-  
ed to rock, until it shall be sufficient-  
ly spacious to contain the affected

8

of Earth, and by its scientific construction suited to the wants & necessities of each, restore them to health.

But not alone upon the remedial properties of Medicines, do our great Therapeutic axiom expend its influence. There is not a single branch of Medical Science, that does not receive new light, & assume new features, each more in harmony with general science & unity in its various branches. Vitality was known, but its laws had not been explained or ascertained: like gravity of science, but the laws of this universal agent remained unexplored until brought to light by the genious of Newton. Thus, in this controlling power in the Medical art, Vitality

There had been no examinations up to this time of Hahnemann. Upon this field did the genious of Hahnemann enter & dispensed the gloom & darkness which overshadowed it. No one preceded him, he brought to light its laws. This field was the summit of them all. He perceived first the law of cure, based on the principle of resistance & reaction, and demonstrated it as a law of vitality.

It was Hahnemann then who brought to light this great principle, that whatever disturbs the current of life, that current will react against it with certainty unless destroyed.

This principle is the basis of the Therapeutical law of Homoeopathy, that like will cure like, if a cure can be arranged. It may be confidently depended

upon, being the result of a treatment  
so conformable to Nature. It is so per-  
fectly without exception, Scientific,  
rapid beyond all expectation, that  
no system under the sun can com-  
pare with it.

He further discovered as  
a law of vitality, the knowing certi-  
ainty in ascertaining diseases by its  
symptoms, which was a complete compre-  
hension of it's requisite to enable him to  
effect a cure, the internal essential  
condition or the state of the abnormal  
state. And after so perfect a dedi-  
cation of the countenance of this  
secret enemy to the laws of vitality,  
how easily can it be detected & ex-  
amination. When that which in the  
Materia Medica, in its true colors  
by the law of similarity. A law

so full of virtue & so well sustained  
by the pillars of Truth, must be to  
empirical Medicine, as a Towering ever-  
green with outstading boughs, decora-  
ted with flowers of rare beauty, &  
fragrance; to a mere shrub supported  
by a worm-eaten stem, subject to be-  
stressed by a gentle zephyr. Without  
Hahnemann's beautiful discovery, ex-  
perience is the sole & very limited ga-  
ide of Medicine, derived from the ob-  
servation of phenomena. In it we  
possess the key to these phenomena,  
and was the first ray of light by  
which Medicine could claim her place  
amongst the exact Sciences. With this  
harmonious order predominating, the mis-  
tery of what has been, is revealed in  
its true colors, & what is to be can so-  
fely be depended upon. But in the

absence of this law of nature. The imagination vainly wanders over floating fields of wonderful but disguised facts.

What is the social position of Medicine? Ask any layman & he will reply without hesitation, that it is a humbug. And is there not sufficient cause for the want of confidence on the part of the layman or the public, when they have seen somehow of its evil consequences, & when it has too often come short of manifesting its healing powers, & lastly when there is so much discord in the ranks of its followers, even since its boasted two thousand years, which cannot be otherwise, when it has been based upon so vacillating a foundation as empiricism. This condition of the

public mind, is an immense social evil. It is entitled to our sympathy, & best efforts for its correction. Notwithstanding the evil is wide spread, & Homeopathy in common with Allopathy suffers by it. In it Medicine has become a travesty, & therefore the cause has a right to exist, its influence remains, & time will be required to secure for legitimate Medicine its rightful position. Allopathy is indebted to a defective art for its origin, & owes its protracted existence to public ignorance in Medicine. If we behold the moral confusion, & want of unanimity of sentiment, pervading the bosoms of a whole people, or a mighty nation, & altogether a revolutionary spirit abroad. We may safely predict the downfall of that people or nation. Just so

with the old system of Medicine. When we see discord in its ranks, a want of success in its treatment - and above all such a diversity of sentiment among its leading authors, we may safely conclude in this case as in the former, that the system will soon or later be second among the things that are. It is in concord with inspiration, an injunction, which has ever & a non proved True, & worthy of the acceptance of all, as certainly being the best code of law we have which is acknowledged by all, even the disbeliever in Holy writ. That a house divided against itself must fall. Then if this ominous prediction be true, is not demolition written over the very shrine of the Temple of Allopathy? for it certainly does not

met with the approbation of the infinite Creator, who hurl's not worlds at random, but governs them in their correct orbits by certain laws.

How then & according to those laws, is the positive precept, which has received the stamp of the immortal signs.

Where can we look for a more infatuated law of Medicine, aside from the groaning & circumstantial Thesaurus of men, which is as shifting as the winds? I with a host of others who labor under philanthropic color of the flag of Humanity, point to its inscription Similia Similibus Curantur, good will towards all men but death no disease, an inscription as inimitable as the laws of Nature.

This is an age of imprisonment; a great practical fact which cannot be kept too constantly before the mind, in all the concerns of life. It has a special bearing upon the ever-living truths of Homoeopathy, in causing the skeptic to ponder & experiment upon its laws, most superficially, to enable him to discover faults & apparent inconveniences, but with that degree of interest, which would cause him to weigh & appreciate its merits, subliming its simplicity & truthfulness, & pre-eminently successfull in practice.

It is true the retrospective history of Similia has presented rather a dark & dispiriting aspect, like every great discovery destined for a while to succumb to the many incompatibilities by which it is surrounded, until the

Mighty lever of Truth, shall unscale  
The vision of human nature & free its  
limbs from the shackles of error.

But is it advancing? Surely it is, full  
of confidence, free from doubt, & undoub-  
ting steadiness. Its radiant Truth  
sparkles on almost every shore, with  
the brightness of the noonday sun, whi-  
ch was at first a mere conception of  
the father of Medicine. It will not  
long dispense the last lingering ray  
of empiricism, which is a mere ph-  
osphorescent bubble in the mighty  
Ocean of the already accumulated facts.  
Which shall ever be as beacons to  
illuminate the pathway of usefulness,  
& by its effulgent beams, anchor the  
ship of Medicine as firm & immov-  
able as the rock of the Anchorite in  
the sacred waters of the Ganges, baffling

every effort for its removal. But still  
bearing its majestic form, Not only in its  
primitive greatness, which excites plus  
usable emotions in him who views or con-  
templates it; but it adds additional last-  
ers, by eliciting from the deep buried  
treasury of its hidden recesses, diamonds,  
its deepest brightest & sickest stones.  
And thus consolidated, by these pre-  
cious jewels, it will stand until the  
last sepal shall sweep the shores  
of Time. Truth has stined the  
drapery that has hitherto veaper  
the medical world in its shade.—

The present age has heard the death  
bell of the past, amidst the midnight  
of its birth, slowly its shades are  
passing, & they who have not learned  
the course of the stars, will deem  
the knight eternal. But others

as the faithful Shepherd, who  
can see these lights arise & set again  
will pronounce them heralds of the  
blaze of Truth.

Hahnemann, whose  
name we cherish for the most pre-  
cious treasury of his genius, the un-  
failing light shed upon the past  
history of Medicine, will live & flour-  
ish with increasing vigor to the end  
of time, to imbue future genera-  
tions yet unborn, with the philos-  
ophy of Medicine.

Today -  
Reports of Medicine  
Presented to the Faculty of the  
Homeopathic Medical College -

Philadelphia

January 1, 1830

John B. Hastings  
Secretary